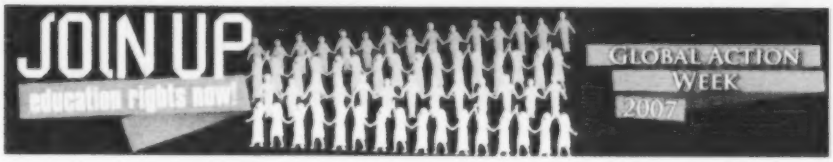
"Everyone has the right to an education"

Education Rights Now! Join UP!

Global Action Week — April 23-29, 2007



The Global Teacher

Issue 7, Spring 2007

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and Oxfam Canada invite teachers in every province and territory to help maintain the momentum of the **Global Campaign for Education (GCE)** by participating in Global Action Week, April 23-29, 2007.

We need you to JOIN UP! The Canadian Global Campaign for Education (CGCE) is committed to encouraging children to play an active role in advocating for the rights of all children to a good quality basic education. CGCE hopes to engage 1300 classrooms across Canada this school year.

CANADIAN GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION

Elementary teachers (grades 3-6) can register on the CGCE Web site (www.campaignforeducationcanada.org) to receive a Curriculum Kit with flexible literacy, social and critical thinking activities linked to provincial curriculum goals. The activities address the theme of education as a human right for all children. Through activities such as the World's Longest Chain, classes will be invited to join children around the world in civic action about the right to education and engage our parliamentarians about Canada's role in these issues! For secondary level lesson plans and backgrounders, visit www.ctf-fce.ca

The CGCE is a member of the worldwide network of civil society organizations, NGOs and teacher unions that support the right to quality education for every child.

For more information, contact globalactionweek@gmail.com
or visit www.campaignforeducation.org

Did you know?

2004

More than 2 million people took part in the World's Biggest Lobby, "Missing an Education"; and 14 Heads of State and dozens of Ministers joined in.

2005

At least 5 million young people and education activists called on world leaders to 'Educate to End Poverty' through "Send my Friends a Teacher".

2006

Millions of campaigners in 120 countries worked collectively to form a global voice that shouted "Every Child Needs a Teacher!" Over 6000 officials and 1000 Ministers from around the world went "Back-to-School" and met with children to hear the case for teachers.

Keeping Our Promises in Education

A high-level donor conference on "Keeping our Promises in Education" will be held May 2nd in Brussels, convened by Louis Michel, European Commissioner for Development, along with World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz, and UK Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

The **Global Campaign for Education (GCE)** looks forward to a breakthrough on reaching 2015 targets on "Education for All" at this event.

"We see this as a key moment for achieving the long-awaited resolution of an education crisis that leaves 80 million children out of school and almost a billion adults unable to read and write. Since 1999, we have been waiting for world leaders to pledge and disburse serious money to end this global scandal. Campaigners are calling on their governments to make May 2nd a remarkable day for future generations."

Kailash Satyarthi (President of the Global Campaign for Education and Global March against Child Labour)

Since 2000, the number of children out of school has dropped from 100 million, the gender gap is closing and aid to education in poorer countries is inching up, but more needs to be done.

- To meet the goal of Universal primary completion by 2015, all children need to start school by 2009.
- UNESCO estimates 18 million teachers are needed by 2015 to reach EFA targets.
- GCE estimates at least $12 billion per year extra will be needed to achieve EFA, which is equivalent to just 0.1% of annual global military expenditures.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

www.makepovertyhistory.ca

CTF Backgrounders and Lesson Plans

Updated CTF lesson plans and materials that build on "Send my Friend to School" theme are available again this year. They are designed to introduce primary and secondary students to the reasons over 77 million children do not have access to education, to raise student awareness of education and development and to explore the link between poverty and education.

The secondary level also increases understanding of the Millennium Development Goals and prompts further inquiry.

For Lesson Plans, Kits and Information, visit the Global Action Week section of the CTF Web site: www.ctf-fce.ca

CTF would like to acknowledge the support of CIDA for Global Action Week activities, including the CGCE Curriculum Kits. For more information on the CIDA Global Classroom Initiative, ***visit www.acdi-cida.gc.ca***

The Global Teacher is produced by the Canadian Teachers' Federation in collaboration with Oxfam Canada, and distributed to publicly funded schools across Canada. The newsletter highlights topical links between sustainable development and education and provides opportunities for engaging Canadian teachers and students in the Global Campaign for Education.

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability

One of the key targets of Millennium Development Goal 7 is to "Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation."

Climate change, global warming, emissions, waste, sustainability, survival — they're on everyone's mind today. However, the looming water crisis is one of the most critical challenges facing all of us. In the last century, the global demand for water increased by 600% comparatively to the world's population increase of only 300%. (1)

Every human being needs clean water to stay alive; we can't live more than a few days without it. Every 8 seconds a child dies from a water-related illness, yet it's every person's human right to have access to a minimum of at least 20 litres of clean water each day. (2)

The Earth is made up of 30% land and 70% water, so how in the world could we ever run short? The collapse of water-based ecological systems, declining river flows and large-scale groundwater depletion are creating a competition for water. Conflicts over water are intensifying within countries, with the rural poor losing out. If we don't better manage our water resources and related ecosystems, two-thirds of humanity will suffer from severe or moderate shortages by 2025. (3)

We all have a stake in the future of our planet. We must find ways to make a difference. What are YOU waiting for?

(1) www.unesco.org
(2) www.worldvision.org
(3) www.undp.org

A teacher's BLOG on Environmental Learning, Teaching & Sustainability

On Earth Day, the Canadian Teachers' Federation will be launching Green Street's BLOG for teachers! If you're interested in classroom and whole-school ideas on going green, educational programs and resources, this is the place to visit and chat. www.green-street.ca

Engaging in our Communities as Global Citizens

The Canadian Teachers' Federation is developing a national bilingual teacher training workshop promoting the four values of the environment, democracy, peace and solidarity to increase the engagement of students within their schools and communities. Look for this workshop resources on the CTF Web site in May 2007. www.ctf-fce.ca

March 22 is World Water Day.

You can live for 40 days without food
but just 5 days without water

Water is a Human Right
– At least 20 litres a day –

April 22 is Earth Day.

Check out what's happening in your area by visiting www.earthday.ca

If you want to preserve our planet and you're looking for curriculum-linked environmental learning and sustainability programs, visit www.green-street.ca

Green Street ...
helping preserve our planet ... one classroom at a time.

New Classroom Resources for High School

from **Oxfam**

Trading Away the Right to Food

Six on-line PowerPoints
with voiceovers from the point of view of farmers in the Majority World..

www.oxfam.ca/news-and-publications/educational-resources/presentations/

PowerPoint A:

Agribusiness

More than 40% of the world's people try to survive on $2 a day or less. The majority depend on agriculture for their income. This section looks at the connection between poverty and export agriculture. Find out which groups have profited from the steep decline in export crop prices over the last 20 years — and which groups have suffered. Learn how it has happened. (18 minutes)

PowerPoint B:

Government Subsidies

Both the United States and the European Union provide extensive subsidies to the large farms and the transnational corporations that produce, process or transport food for export. Poor family farmers, even those with an income of less than $2 a day, are not able to compete. Learn why. (14 minutes)

PowerPoints C and C1:

Trade Rules

In PowerPoint C we look at how Free Trade has been interpreted and who really profits from this interpretation. It's not family farmers, either in the developed or the developing world! (14 minutes) PowerPoint C1 focuses on Canada's unique Supply Management system. Learn how it is changing and the challenges and threats that it faces. (9 minutes)

PowerPoints D and D1:

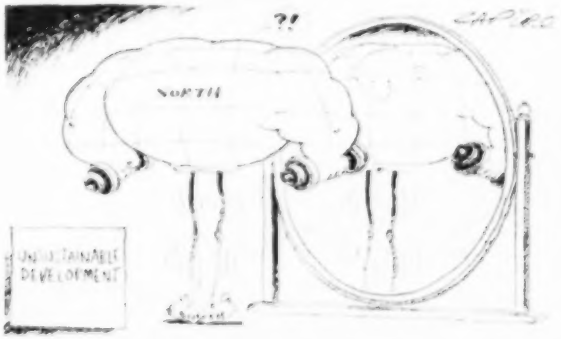
The World Trade Organization

PowerPoint D examines how rich countries influence the agenda at the WTO and how trade agreements like TRIPS (Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights) place family farmers in developing countries at a severe disadvantage. (13 minutes) PowerPoint D1 uses a case study of the Banana War to demonstrate how little protection the Dispute Court mechanism of the WTO gives family farmers. (9 minutes)

Complete with classroom activities and suggested topics for research

Other on-line PowerPoints on
International Development
and Humanitarian Relief
are also available
in both English and French at:

www.virtualteachercentre.ca/oxfam/oxfam.aspx



Oxfam Canada

Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

Public Services – Key to ending Poverty

Ask a student what distinguishes a poor country from a rich country and all too often they answer technology or industry. 'We have factories that produce steel, automobiles, computers, televisions, that's what makes us rich.' It is not often they think to answer clean water or access to a school.

Now ask a student to describe the morning routine at their home. Here the responses are clearer: I had a shower. My parents made some coffee. I used the toilet. I brushed my teeth. We tend to take for granted that the turn of a tap gives us clean water or that the flush of the toilet activates a sophisticated sanitation system, or that our schools are well-maintained and there are teachers for every class. Yet these basic tools have allowed us to advance and progress as individuals and as a society.

"In the Public Interest" is a new report from Oxfam and WaterAid; it states that developing countries must provide basic public services if we are to "make poverty history". However, many governments lack the cash, the capacity or the commitment to do so. World leaders must end the scandal that would deny poor people their right to vital public services. The report argues that rich countries must increase aid and commit long-term funding that supports greater investment for the training and salaries of teachers and health care workers and for developing national public water and sanitation systems.

Connect the DOTS:

- ➤ $47 billion a year would meet MDGs for health, education, water and sanitation combined
- ➤ Canada must commit 0.7% of GNI to aid
- ➤ Global military spending exceeds $1 trillion
- ➤ In 89 of 103 countries, students must pay school fees
- ➤ Abolishing school fees lead to massive enrollment
- ➤ Today, over 4,000 children will be killed by diarrhea, a disease of dirty water
- ➤ Today, 1,400 women will die needlessly in pregnancy and childbirth
- ➤ Every day millions are denied Basic Human Rights
- ➤ The average 16 year old girl in Africa has had less than 3 years of schooling

For the first time, within a generation, every child in the world could be in school, every woman could give birth with proper health care, everyone could drink clean, safe water, and millions of new health workers could be saving lives and shaping minds.

Let's work together in the public interest. To learn more, visit www.oxfam.ca and support Oxfam and the Canadian Union of Public Employees as they team up together in support of public services for all.

NEW RESOURCES FROM UNICEF

UNICEF Canada's Education for Development program is designed to help teachers make their classrooms a truly global space.

UNICEF offers engaging and experienced volunteer speakers who can visit your school, at no cost, to speak on topics including child rights, HIV/AIDS, girls' education and child labour and free workshops for teachers and teacher candidates.

UNICEF has a wide array of videos, books and posters for sale and free to download from our Web site at:

www.unicef.ca

Child-Friendly version of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
https://www.shopunicef.ca/CMO/Portal/Portal.aspx?CD=5984CF84AD6B

Deborah Ellis' The Heaven Shop and accompanying Teacher's Guide
https://www.shopunicef.ca/CMO/Portal/Portal.aspx?CD=9B02646F38AA

Education for Social Justice
From the Margin to the Mainstream

May 4 - 6, 2007 –
OTTAWA MARRIOTT HOTEL
A CANADIAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION CONFERENCE

Registration Fee: $428

Conference registration includes taxes, breakfasts, lunches and materials. Our GST registration number is R106867278.

For more information, please contact Jo-Ann Gallant at the Canadian Teachers' Federation, 613-232-1505, ext. 115, (toll free) 1-866-283-1505, or (e-mail) jgall@ctf-fce.ca

OR check out the CTF Web site at www.ctf-fce.ca

Water and Girls' Education:

Did you know

New UN Report links access to water and girls schools attendance:

"In Tanzania school attendance levels are 12% higher for girls in homes 15 minutes or less from a water source than in homes an hour or more away."

"Young girls, particularly after puberty, are also less likely to attend classes if the school does not have suitable hygiene facilities....
On one estimate about half the girls in Sub-Saharan Africa who drop out of primary school do so because of poor water and sanitation facilities."

The 2006 Human Development Report:
"Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis"

http://hdr.undp.org/hdr2006/

For more information on CTF International Cooperation, see the *"Together"* Report on the CTF Web site, at

www.ctf-fce.ca